

With the passage and subsequent signing into law of H.R. 429 during the 102nd Congress (1992), the Bureau of Reclamation constructed and continues to operate a water treatment plant at the mouth of the Tunnel.

Groundwater levels at the tunnel have fluctuated in recent years. In addition, a collapse in the tunnel has increased the tunnel's mine pool significantly, leading to new seeps and springs in the area. Estimates suggest that up to 1 billion gallons of water may have built up within the mine pool.

In November 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation expressing concerns over a catastrophic blowout, and in February 2008, the Lake County Commissioners declared a state of emergency.

We know that the Bureau of Reclamation is completing a risk assessment in the area, and we look forward to reviewing that report. Additionally, some emergency measures are currently being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure in the vicinity.

But many of the problems reported at this site are not new. Legislation addressing this matter and authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to rehabilitate this tunnel dates back to at least 1976.

In response to the request for action from the local community, I worked together with Congressman MARK UDALL from Colorado and introduced H.R. 5511. This bill would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure behind certain blockages in the tunnel, permanently manage the mine pool behind any blockage to prevent releases of contaminated water, and manage the tunnel in such a way to prevent failure of the structure.

I look forward to seeing this situation remedied so that concerns about human safety and environmental integrity may be appropriately and responsibly addressed. I encourage all members to support passage of this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters for inclusion in the RECORD on the consideration of H.R. 5511, the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Act of 2008.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 12, 2008.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: I write to you regarding H.R. 5511, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado.

H.R. 5511 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forego a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 5511.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this

legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 5511 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 5511 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2008.

Hon. JAMES OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 5511, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 5511, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the committee report and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Once again, I have no other speakers on this particular bill. Does the gentlelady have any other speakers?

Ms. BORDALLO. I have no other speakers.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5511, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 17, 2008, at 10:40 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 814.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5778.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3403.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 84.

Appointments:
Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,
LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

DESIGNATING CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

To The Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Shara L. Aranoff as Chairman and Daniel Pearson as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2008.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 17, 2008.

PUBLIC RADIO RECOGNITION MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1002) expressing support for designation of April 2008 as "Public Radio Recognition Month," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1002

Whereas the mission of public radio is to create a better informed public that is challenged and invigorated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of events, ideas, and cultures;

Whereas the programming content created and distributed by public radio is based on 3